

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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ATTN: SCICOUNS VREBALOVICH FROM NASA BARNES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS OF LANDSAT AND INSAT

REF: NEW DELHI 1479

1. LANDSAT. FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS INDIAN AGENCIES (FIRST DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, THEN NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING AGENCY) HAVE SOUGHT NASA AGREEMENT TO BUILD AND OPERATE LANDSAT GROUND STATION BUT HAD DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING STANDARD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CLAUSE WHICH REFLECTS USG POLICY REQUIRING OPEN AVAILABILITY OF DATA ACQUIRED. DURING DECEMBER VISIT HERE VELLODI OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (FORMERLY DEPARTMENT OF SPACE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY) INDICATED PROBABLE INDIAN ACCEPTANCE OF LANGUAGE USED IN SOME NASA AGREEMENTS ACCEPTING OPEN DATA OBLIGATION BUT PROVIDING FOR A REVIEW
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OF THE COMMITMENT IN THE EVENT INDIA AND US ADHERE TO A FUTURE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH DIFFERING POLICY GUIDELINES. NOTHING FURTHER HEARD; BALL REMAINS IN INDIAN COURT.

2. INSAT. FOCUS OF NASA/ISRO DISCUSSIONS ON LAUNCH ALTERNATIVES WAS QUESTION AS TO HOW ISRO CAN ASSURE OCTOBER 1980 INSAT LAUNCH (IN MIDDLE OF MAY-DECEMBER 1980)

PERIOD OF TRANSITION FROM EXPENDABLE VEHICLES TO SHUTTLE-BASED SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM), WHILE RETAINING MAXIMUM CHANCE OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER COST OF STS LAUNCH. PURSUANT TO DISCUSSIONS, FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO DHAWAN FEBRUARY 11: QUOTE 1) THIS RESPONDS TO QUESTION RAISED DURING JANUARY 11 DISCUSSION CONCERNING METHOD OF ASSURING OCTOBER 1980 LAUNCH FOR INSAT AT LEAST COST TO ISRO. 2) IF INSAT SPACECRAFT WERE DESIGNED FOR DUAL COMPATIBILITY WITH STS AND DELTA AND WERE SCHEDULED FOR STS LAUNCHING IN OCTOBER 1980, PROGRESS PAYMENTS UNTIL JANUARY 1979 WOULD ASSUME STS LAUNCH. DURING THAT PERIOD NASA WOULD PROVIDE DELTA BACKUP CAPABILITY AT NO EXTRA CHARGE TO ISRO. ISRO WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE BY JANUARY 1979 IF IT WISHED TO SWITCH TO DELTA. IF SO, PAYMENTS WOULD BE ADJUSTED TO ALLOW PAYMENT OF TOTAL DELTA COST BEFORE LAUNCH. PAYMENTS ALREADY MADE FOR STS LAUNCH WOULD BE CREDITED TOWARD DELTA COST. END QUOTE.

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